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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/23/2026  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [OVIP](#) [JA](#)  
SUBJECT: MOFA REQUESTS ARF MINISTERIAL BILATERAL ON JULY 27  
VICE JULY 28

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer. Reason: 1.4 (b)(d).

(C) During a July 24 meeting between the Ambassador and Vice Foreign Minister Shotaro Yachi (septels), VFM Yachi raised the issue of a ministerial bilateral on the margins of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Kuala Lumpur. Yachi noted that the Secretary's staff had offered Friday, July 28, 13:00-13:25 for the Secretary's meeting with Foreign Minister Aso. Japan, however, feels strongly that the bilateral should take place the previous day, July 27, so the Secretary and FM Aso can consult prior to a possible ministerial-level meeting among the countries involved with the Six-Party Talks (6PT). Japan is also interested in holding a U.S.-Japan-ROK trilateral prior to such a 6PT meeting, but when pressed by the Ambassador, stressed that a U.S.-Japan bilateral took precedence over a U.S.-Japan-ROK trilateral. The Ambassador promised to relay MOFA's request to Washington.  
SCHIEFFER